A CLINICAL STUDY OF KETOPROFEN SUPPOSITORIES

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SUMMARY
Ketoprofen administered via the rectal route seemed to be valuable when given at night to patients with various rheumatic syndromes and may be particularly useful for patients who show gastric intolerance of the capsules. Anal intolerance was noted in 12% of the patients.

METHODS
Patients
Ketoprofen suppositories, each containing 100 mg, were given to 20 patients suffering from rheumatoid arthritis (9) and various inflammatory and non-inflammatory syndromes.

Dosage
In most cases (14 patients out of 20), the suppository was taken at bedtime. In two cases a second suppository was sometimes taken during the day. In three cases, the second suppository was taken daily. In one exceptional case (acute periarthritis of both hip joints with calcification), the pain was so intense that the patient had to take three suppositories in one day. The three suppositories were taken within only 9 hours, that is at the rate of one every three hours.

Duration of treatment
In seven cases, the duration of treatment did not exceed one week, either because of the mildness of the disorder treated or because of intolerance (see below).
In twelve cases, the treatment lasted from one to several months: for
1 month in 3 cases
2 months in 2 cases
3 months in 2 cases
4 months in 1 case
5 months in 1 case
6 months in 2 cases
7 months in 1 case

One patient has been taking one ketoprofen suppository at bedtime every day for 13 months.

RESULTS
Tolerance
The good general tolerance of ketoprofen suppositories should be emphasized. In only one case did the patient complain that the suppository taken the previous evening caused him to wake up with a slight headache. Otherwise, no side-effects were noted and it should even be emphasized that five patients who showed a slight gastric intolerance of ketoprofen capsules, tolerated the drug well when it was administered via the rectal route.

One of these patients had pains in the stomach and a hiatus hernia, the second had pains in the stomach, but radiographs of the stomach and duodenum were negative, the third presented with epigastric pain with radiological signs of inflammation of the duodenal bulb, and the last two patients suffered from gastric intolerance but no lesion could be found.
On the other hand, local tolerance was bad in six cases out of 20 (12%). All six patients had a burning sensation in the anus sufficiently severe for the patients to abandon the treatment. Three cases of local intolerance which took the form of a feeling of abdominal distension with or without colic were also noted.

**Effectiveness**

The effects of treatment were rated as follows:

- Very good: 1
- Good: 6 (65%)
- Fairly good: 6
- Nil: 4
- Poor: 3

It is interesting to note that the percentage of satisfactory results obtained with ketoprofen suppositories corresponds closely to that obtained in larger numbers of patients with ketoprofen capsules (62.7%). In rheumatoid arthritis the good, very good, and fairly good results account for 65% of the results.